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For Immediate Release

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**Disability Rights Wisconsin Anticipates Positive Working Relationship
with new Secretary of the Department of Health Services Andrea Palm**

Disability Rights Wisconsin welcomes Governor-Elect Evers' appointment of Andrea Palm to his cabinet post for the Department of Health Services. The new Secretary's extensive experience in health policy and her demonstrated concern for the well-being of those she has served make her an excellent choice.

The Department of Health Services has the responsibility of policy-setting and oversight for many areas affecting individuals with disabilities. One key area is the administration of Medicaid-funded benefits. In Wisconsin, Medicaid supports adults and children with disabilities through programs such as Family Care, IRIS, school and early intervention therapies, Children's Long Term Services Wavier and the Katie Beckett program. Disability Rights Wisconsin's (DRW's) Executive Director Lea Kitz said, "DRW is pleased that the Secretary has already sent strong signals about her interest in working with stakeholders and families as the Department's plans develop. DRW stands ready to work together to safeguard and benefit children and adults with disabilities, including those with mental health needs."

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*Disability Rights Wisconsin is the federally mandated Protection and Advocacy system
for the State of Wisconsin.*

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